

season. Night Herons and Cattle Egrets do not live here, but only pass through. The Shahn Falcon and the woodpecker are irregular visitors.

JAMAL ARA

#### 14. STRAY BIRD NOTES FROM TIBET

I have just returned from what is, I fear, my last trip in Tibet. I visited Lhakhang Dzong which you will find on the Tibet-Bhutan border where the Lhobrak river pierces the Himalaya. The existence of an opening in the Himalaya makes it possible for South Himalayan birds to enter Tibet and I am sure that if it ever becomes possible for any observer to stay in that area, the number of Himalayan species recorded with a Tibetan distribution will be increased.

The country for some 30-40 miles up the Lhobrak river in Tibet has a mixed deciduous (mainly birch) and conifer forest and I found the following birds as far up as to within 4 miles of Se (Tse).

Nutcracker. The Himalayan species *hemispila*.

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula erythrocephala*).

Himalayan Cole Tit (*Lophophanes ater aemodius*).

Green-backed Tit (*Parus monticolus monticolus*).

Himalayan Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus himalayensis*).

Red-flanked Bush Robin (*Tanithia cyanura rufilata*).

These were all numerous.

In the same area there were Snow Pigeons (*Columba leuconota*) Blue-headed Redstarts (*P. frontalis*) and Accentors (*Prunella strophiata*). Also the same laughing thrush which is common on the Tibet side of the Nathu La (which I think is *Trochalopteron affine affine*), a pipit, probably Richard's, (*Anthus richardi*) and the Himalayan Jungle Crow (*Corvus m. intermedius*).

At the Pemaling Ishho (Lake) I saw a flock of over 30 Hodgson's Grandala, Rubythroats, a *Laiscopus* which I took to be *collaris nivalensis*, *Prunella atrogularis*, Bluethroat, *Chaimarrhornis leucocephala*, also Gldenstadt's Redstart and the Eastern Indian Redstart, a chat like the Indian Bush Chat but without an orange-red breast.

I may add that in the deciduous/conifer forest area I saw twice, but never distinctly, a dark blue bird with whitish sides which I thought might be Hodgson's Shortwing.

I find from my notes of past years that a bird I saw in a valley off the Brahmaputra near Samye and in other places, appears to be the Daurian Redstart, and that there is a martin in many parts of Tibet which is neither the Crag Martin nor the Sand Martin but has a much shinier black on the wings and body and a conspicuously white rump. It looks like a House Martin but I do not think Ludlow mentions this in his Bhutan list.

c/o GRINDLAY'S BANK,  
6, CHURCH LANE,  
CALCUTTA,  
November 7, 1950.

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